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State Courier # 10-69-17

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April 6, 2010

Dr. Robert Weiss
Fiscal Research Division
General Assembly of North Carolina
Room 619 Legislative Office Building
300 N. Salisbury St.
Raleigh, NC 27603

Dear Dr. Weiss,

Currituck County officials and staff have learned of the General Assembly's desire to revisit Section 136-17.2A of the General Statutes, entitled "Distribution formula for funds expended on Intrastate System and Transportation Improvement Program," aka, the "Equity Formula," during a legislative hearing by the Transportation Oversight Committee on April 6, 2010 in Raleigh.

Although Currituck County is unable to send a representative to the Transportation Oversight Committee hearing, we would like to go on the record in opposition to changes to the Equity Formula that have the potential to redirect funds from rural counties, like Currituck and all of District 1, to more urban districts throughout the State.

In an article in the Raleigh News & Observer on 3/29/10 entitled "Road funds don't follow population in N.C.," reporters fault DOT for skewed funding allocations to rural areas with small populations and failures to address urban congestion. Clearly, the 2010 Census results will show strong population growth in urban DOT districts, which will in turn increase the allocations within the Equity Formula for those areas. This is how the formula was intended to operate at its inception in 1989.

Moreover, it seems divisive and premature that the News & Observer would publish this article, and the Transportation Oversight Committee would hold a hearing, *prior* to receiving data and projections on how the 2010 Census will impact the Equity Formula.

The real issue at play is not urban versus rural; rather, it is one of congestion versus connectivity – and the impacts on revenue-generating economic development and tourism for the State.

While congestion is a valid frustration for urban officials, solutions are not exclusively more roads and more DOT money. Traffic control, HOV-Carpooling, park-and-ride, public transit and toll facilities are just a few of the options urban locales have for mitigating congestion.

Connectivity, on the other hand, is the lifeblood of a region and provides fluid movement of goods, travelers and general commerce. Connectivity is what truly links rural and urban North Carolina: it links farmer to fork, manufacturer to distributor and port to retailer.

Congestion may indeed be an annoyance; but connectivity is a *necessity*.

I urge you to consider the importance of connectivity for Currituck County and all of District 1 as you consider the Equity Formula in your hearings. We respectfully request that this letter be read into the record at your hearing and receive your full consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel F. Scanlon II", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Daniel F. Scanlon II
County Manager

CC: Board of Commissioners, Economic Development, Sen. Marc Basnight, Rep. Bill Owens

